

Washington, DC – U.S. Congressman Ciro D. Rodriguez (TX-23) announced Thursday that \$200,000 in financial services funding for Fort Stockton and Eagle Pass passed the full House.

“At a time when our economy is in distress all over, it’s important to fund initiatives which help keep our local economies strong,” said Congressman Rodriguez.

The Fort Stockton Small Business Development Program received \$100,000 for the development of a regional program focused on helping short and long-term unemployed individuals attempting to re-enter the job market in Fort Stockton and Pecos County. In Eagle Pass, the Maverick County Small Business Development Initiative also received \$100,000 to develop a small business program to attract and retain jobs and help the unemployed return to work.

Werner Johnson, Board President of the Maverick County Development Corporation, said the funds will be used to aggressively market the Eagle Pass/Maverick County area to domestic and international businesses.

“We haven’t had many resources to do this in the past and we can make a difference with these funds,” Johnson said, noting that a local industrial park is one of the sites being marketed.

Johnson said he was pleased with Congressman Rodriguez’s leadership in securing the dollars for Maverick County, where the unemployment rate – though it has dropped significantly in recent months - still hovers at about 14 percent.

“There are people out there pulling for us and I’d like to let him know we appreciate it,” Johnson said. “There is something good going on here.”